IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The process according to claim ~~10~~ 26, in which the amount of additive ranges from 0.05 o 2%.

Claims 12-13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The process according to claim ~~13~~ 29, ~~in which the~~ wherein said active ingredient is a β-agonist selected from the group consisting of salbutamol, formoterol, salmeterol, terbutaline ~~or~~ and salts thereof.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The process according to claim ~~13~~ 29, ~~in which the~~ wherein said active ingredient is ~~an antiinflammatory~~ a steroid selected from beclomethasone dipropionate, flunisolide, budesonide and the epimers thereof.

Claim 16 (Canceled).

Claim 17 (New): A process for modifying the surface properties of particles for use as carrier particles for the pulmonary administration of micronised drugs by means of dry powder inhalers, comprising the step of subjecting said carrier particles alone to a treatment in a mixer equipped with a rotating element in order to produce *in situ* a fine fraction of said carrier particles.

Claim 18 (New): The process according to Claim 17, wherein said carrier particles have a starting diameter between 90 to 150 μm and said fine fraction of said carrier particles has a mean aerodynamic diameter of less than 10 μm.

Claim 19 (New): The process according to Claim 17, wherein the mixer is selected from those with a stationary or rotating body equipped with a rotatory element.

Claim 20 (New): The process according to Claim 17, wherein the mixer is a sigma blade mixer and the rate of mixing is comprised between 100 and 300 r.p.m.

Claim 21 (New): The process according to Claim 17, wherein the mixing time of said carrier particles ranges from 5 to 360 minutes.

Claim 22 (New): The process according to Claim 17, wherein the mixing time is 30 minutes.

Claim 23 (New): The process according to Claim 17, wherein said carrier particles consist of one or more saccharides.

Claim 24 (New): The process according to Claim 17, wherein said carrier particles consist of α-lactose monohydrate.

Claim 25 (New): The process according to Claim 17, which yields a fraction of said carrier particles whose variation of the starting mean aerodynamic diameter is less than 20%.

Claim 26 (New): A process according to Claim 17, wherein after said treatment a suitable amount of an additive selected from the group consisting of lubricants, anti-adherent agents and glidants is added to the carrier.

Claim 27 (New): A process according to Claim 26, wherein said additive comprises a lubricant and is magnesium stearate, stearic acid, sodium stearyl fumarate or sodium benzoate.

Claim 28 (New): A process according to Claim 17, wherein after said treatment one or more active ingredients, whose particles have a mean diameter of less than 5 μm, are added to the carrier.

Claim 29 (New): A process according to Claim 28 wherein said active ingredient is selected from the group consisting of steroids, β_2 agonists and anticolinergics.

Claim 30 (New): A process according to Claim 11, wherein said additive comprises a lubricant and is magnesium stearate, stearic acid, sodium stearyl fumarate or sodium benzoate.

Claim 31 (New): The process according to Claim 19, wherein said rotating element is a blade or screw.

Claim 32 (New): The process according to Claim 19, wherein said mixer is a high-shear mixer.

Claim 33 (New): The process according to Claim 27, wherein said lubricant is magnesium stearate.

Claim 34 (New): The process according to Claim 17, wherein said carrier particles have a starting diameter of between 20 to 1,000 μm.

Claim 35 (New): The process according to Claim 30, wherein said lubricant is magnesium stearate.

Claim 36 (New): The process according to Claim 29, wherein said active ingredient is an anticolinergic selected from the group consisting of ipratropium bromide and oxytropium bromide.